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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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COOPERATING



STATES RELATIONS SERVICE
OFFICE OF EXTENSION WORK NORTH AND WEST
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THIS LOOKS GOOD

SULPHUR AS A FERTILIZER

The use of sulphur as a fertilizer for certain farm crops has had an interesting development in several counties of the northwestern States. In view of the newness of this practice county agents may be interested in the results secured by County Agent E. H. Thomas in Kalamath County, Oregon. In his annual report Mr. Thomas says:

"During the past season it was not found necessary to arrange for field demonstrations showing the benefits of sulphur on alfalfa as in the previous year. It was thought desirable, however, to gather as complete data as possible on the results obtained from the use of sulphur in the spring. A systematic survey was made and reports obtained concerning results on practically all of the farms where sulphur was used. The returns from these surveys, made just after the first cutting, show that good results were obtained in all parts of the county where sulphur was used. In order to get definite data on actual gains, samples were taken from measured areas during the latter part of August involving twenty-seven fields. Where conditions allowed, a comparison between sulphured and unsulphured alfalfa was carefully made, showing an average percentage of increase for the sulphured areas of 144.9 per cent. The percentage of increase on the 27 fields varied from 13.5 per cent to 528.5 per cent. The most noticeable increases were obtained on some of the older fields where the yield without sulphur had been decreasing for the past few years. In general larger increases were obtained on lighter soils. There was a noticeable difference in the size and number of leaves on the sulphured hay in comparison with the unsulphured hay.

The expense of sulphuring an acre of alfalfa should not exceed \$3.50 including the cost of the sulphur and applying it.

On the F. T. Nelson ranch there was still an increase of 130 per cent on the second cutting this year where sulphur was applied four years ago. Observations this year indicate that increased yields of alsike and red clover as well as of alfalfa, may be expected.

The Oregon agricultural experiment station has conducted extensive investigations in regard to the use of sulphur as a fertilizer.

County Agent Section

1-31-'21

No. 34-L

W. H. Thomas

